

Application No. 10/691,040
Amendment dated August 4, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method of making a carpet including a secondary carpet backing fabric, comprising the steps of:

providing a fibrous matrix comprising staple length fibers;

providing a support layer comprising a continuous filament support layer in the form of a spunbond fabric;

providing a foraminous surface in the form of a three-dimensional image transfer device;

juxtaposing said fibrous matrix and said support layer and applying hydraulic energy to entangle said fibrous matrix and said support layer into a precursor web;
and

hydroentangling said precursor web on said foraminous surface to form a three-dimensionally imaged nonwoven fabric; and

integrating said imaged nonwoven fabric in the form of a secondary carpet backing fabric with associated carpet components to form a carpet.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended). A method of making a carpet including a secondary carpet backing fabric, comprising the steps of:

- providing a fibrous matrix comprising staple length fibers;
- providing a support layer comprising a continuous filament support layer in the form of a spunbond fabric;
- carding said fibrous matrix;
- cross-lapping said fibrous matrix to form a precursor web;
- entangling said precursor web on a foraminous forming surface;
- juxtaposing said support layer onto said precursor web;
- providing a three-dimensional image transfer device comprising an imaging surface having an array of three-dimensional surface elements, said imaging surface being movable relative to at least one associated hydroentangling manifold; and
- hydroentangling said precursor web on said imaging surface so that portions of said precursor web are displaced from on top of said three-dimensional surface elements to form an imaged and patterned nonwoven fabric; and
- integrating said imaged ad patterned nonwoven fabric in the form of a secondary carpet backing fabric with associated carpet components to form a carpet.